Snyder County Germans As Viewed By An Outsider

By WILLIAM A. RUSS, JR.

The following paper was read by Dr. William A. Russ, Professor of History and Political Science at Susquehanna University, before a joint meeting of the Selinsgrove Rotary Club and The Snyder County Historical Society, held in the Governor Snyder Hotel at Selinsgrove on Thursday evening, Feb. 4, 1943. On this same occasion Prof. George F. Dunkelberger of Susquehanna University read a paper on "The Characteristics of the Pennsylvania German People (as seen by one of them) which appeared in the ECK for June 19 and 26, 1943.—ED.

WHEN it became known that I was scheduled to read a paper on the characteristics of the Pennsylvania Germans of Snyder County, one of my friends asked: "How are you going to do that? How are you going to get away with telling them all their faults?" My answer was that the Germans of Snyder County have many virtues as well as faults, and that if I could not think of anything good to say about them I should not have agreed to write this paper.

For instance, it is not at all difficult to praise the Snyder County Germans for their patriotism. I know of no group in the country today who have been more loyal, more willing to enlist or to be drafted, and more anxious to support the war. I need not remind you of the heroism of Snyder County Germans in the Civil War when the saga of Company G was acted out; nor of the support of Snyder County in the First World War when Susquehanna University sent out two ambulance units; nor how many others fought bravely for their country against the land from which their ancestors came. Again the Germans of Snyder County are asked to fight the Nation whence their forefathers fled, and again they are as loyal as ever.

Patrotism, then, is number one as a characteristic of Snyder County Germans.

The next quality, which, as an outsider, I have observed, is that of extreme conservatism. This is such an accepted fact in the County that it is taken as a matter of course, but to a newcomer it is something that strikes him in the face at once. Let me at the outset say that this factor of conservatism is both good and bad. I would rather have it than no ism at all. In some respects it is admirable and has served the people well. One example will suffice. During the "lush Babylonian days" before 1929, when slick New York bankers were trying to foist worthless foreign bonds onto the country banks, one bank that I know of, and it is probably true of all of them, steadfastly refused to invest in such worthless securities. This type of conservatism has paid well. Other banks elsewhere, after the bank holiday, never opened because they had lost large amounts by buying such bonds. My hat is off to that kind of commonsense economic conservatism which keeps its feet on the ground and which would rather make a penny slowly than a dollar in a hurry and then go bankrupt.

Some other phases of Snyder County conservatism are not so pretty. I do not refer to the fact that a large majority of the people are Republicans. That is of course conservative, but it is their right. Even good old Chapman seems to be going the way of all flesh. Maps in Mueller's book called "The Whig Party in Pennsylvania" show that this area voted anti-Democratic at least back as far as the 1830's. It has voted either Anti-Masonic, Whig, or Republican, but seldom if ever Democratic. Nor do I refer to the fact that most Snyder Countians do not like President Roosevelt. I think it is unfortunate, but as Americans we have the right to dislike our rulers and to say so out loud if we wish. That is certainly one right which Pennsylvania Germans have and which Nazi Germans do not have. I exercised my right to dislike Harding, and Snyder Countians have the same right to dislike Roosevelt. Nor do I refer in this discussion of conservatism to the way in which conservative Snyder County took its share of the pap which was handed out by the New Deal and then voted against the New Deal. I have always been amused as well as uplifted by this example of conservatism in action. I say amused because if the New Deal Democrats hoped to win Snyder County Republicans by the process of pouring money into the County, the New Dealers certainly were embezzled. A new postoffice was built and money was granted in aid of the new high school. Snyder Countians said in effect: "We'll take both, but we'll still vote against the party that gave them." I say this is funny because as a non-partisan I can laught at it. Of course the Democrats might not find it so amusing. But as I say, I have also been uplifted in my belief in democracy by this sturdy, if sullen, adherence to one party even if the other party offers certain advantages. There is something downright American and good for the soul in this picture of the Germans of Snyder County and the Yankees of Maine valiantly holding up the banner through defeat after defeat, and saying, "We cannot be persuaded to vote Democratic even by PWA grants and by postoffices, although we'll take our share of both the grants and the postoffices." As a matter of fact, the episode, it seems to me, does honor to both parties. And as an American I am glad to be able to say so. I do not believe the Democrats were so obtuse as to believe they could win Snyder County by pouring money into it. I believe we got a postoffice and aid in building the high school, aside from partisan considerations. On the other hand, I think that if the two parties were more nearly equal, it would be better for all, because the two-party system is the very essence of democracy, and we do not have the two-party system in Snyder County.

When I said a moment ago that certain phases of Snyder County conservatism were a little less than admirable, I was referring to some real hardships that emerge from a too rigid adherence to the ideas of the past. I am thinking of the way in which several years ago the farmers of Snyder County voted down the State income tax—a measure which would have helped them by placing some of the burden on the shoulders of others. Yet they turned it down. This is one aspect of conservatism which betrays a fear of new ideas, even if they are good, and which accounts for some of the unprogresive characteristics of many of the people of the County. The same dislike of new ideas, even if they are good, can be seen in the slowness with which our farmers take up newer methods and procedures in agriculture. One means this attitude stated on all sides, usually in the phrase, "It was good enough for grandpop, it was good enough for pop, and it is good enough for me." I believe the strict adherence to the methods of the past is slowly disintegrating; for instance some farmers are using the strip and contour system to preserve their farms. But a recent paper read by Ira Yoder before this society on the farm agents would indicate that it is a difficult job to get local farmers to give up their old customs. If they do change, however, they stick to the change, and that fact is all to the good.

Another aspect of Snyder County conservatism is more amusing than important, but it shows what I am talking about. Snyder Countians adhere to their folklore and traditions. They do not like to have smart-aleck outsiders like myself come in and point out that perhaps some of their twice-told tales may not have been true even when first told. Some time ago I read a paper before this society and said that it was extremely doubtful whether George Kremer had ever made a speech in Congress in Pennsylvania Dutch. I said that it was possible, but could not be proved by the records we have. My good friend, the editor of the **Selinsgrove Times**, who learned about the paper second-hand, gave me a real lambasting in his Pepper Box for daring to question such a hoary tradition. I say it was amusing because had he heard the paper, he could not have written the denunciation. Another example of the same thing is the iterated and reiterated error which has Governor Snyder as the only three-term Governor of the State. I thought this one had been nailed down some years ago, but a month or two since it appeared in print again. It would seem that the honor of having the last three-term Governor would be sufficient, but it appears that tradition is stronger than fact. I suppose we shall continue to have to accept Snyder as our only three-termer, even if we know it is not true.

Conservatism, then, is characteristic number two.

The third quality which I have noticed is hard to name because it includes a number of phases. For lack of a better term, I shall call it morality. I believe the Pennsylvania Germans of Snyder County are a highly moral people. That is to say that, in spite of many exceptions, they are law-abiding, thrifty, honest, religious. The number of murders and other crimes is small and seems large only because they are so few. I recall having an argument in class with a student from urbanized New Jersey. I said that in rural areas there was less crime. He objected by saying that he lived in a large city and yet felt safe from criminals. I asked him if he ever heard of the courts of his city or county being postponed becaues there were not enough cases to justify holding court. He admitted that his courts always had plenty to keep them busy. I reminded them that time and again in Snyder County the court was postponed because there were not sufficient cases to justify the expenses of holding a session. And mirable dictu, I just read of an instance of the same thing over in Northumberland the other day! Of course some of this arises out of the fact that Snyder County is rural and that population is scattered. But even in Selinsgrove, we seem to get along with one policeman, whose duty, as one can gather from the words of a former Selinsgrove policeman, is mainly that of seeing that truck motors are turned off so that certain South Market Street Democrats can sleep at night.

As to thrift, I am sure that it is still a characteristic, although not as much as it used to be. One hears of many people who would rather be on relief than work, but it is doubtful whether this is universal. One need go no farther than to walk the streets of Selinsgrove to see evidence of thrift: neat, well-kept homes, with the porches jutting out into the street to save, as the saying goes, space for cabbage-raising in the rear garden. In the same category are the ubiquitous overhead rainspouts which carry the water from porch roofs out into the gutter—and sometimes down somebody's neck. One gets the impression that most of the people are neither very rich nor very poor, although there are many who are poor. Nor do I think that those on relief in recent years lost thei sense of pride. I recall asking a little shaver where he got a small wagonload of carrots that he was taking home. "Oh, down at the relief station," he said. "How can I get some of them," I asked. "That's easy," he replied, "just go down and sign up for relief." I did not get the feeling at all that he had any inferiority complex arising from the fact that his father did not have a job. I get the impression that the Pennsylvania German takes what he thinks is his due—whether it is carrots, post offices or high schools—and does not feel that it is degrading to accept help. This attitude is entirely commendable.

As to honesty, I am convinced that it is a characteristic of the Snyder Countian—certainly more than of the people of certain areas I have known about. It is true that paying debts is not as scrupulously adhered to as it used to be, but in general it is. I do not believe that the inability of many unfortunates to pay their debts during the depression can be said to be a characteristic of Snyder Countians in general.

When it comes to religiousness as a quality, one cannot but feel the fact that, while there are many exceptions, it is the church people of the County who carry the weight. One hears many complaints that the people do not go to church as murch as formerly. This may be correct, but I believe a larger proportion of the people of the County go to church than in most other places. The influence of the churches is felt everywhere, from protesting against undesirable movies to supporting the Boy and Girl Scouts. I have always felt that some of our ministers are unduly pessimistic about the power of the churches in the County. The situation could be improved, of course; but as compared to many other places, the people of the County are a church people. In the same line of thought, it is notable that Protestantism is so strong that there is not a Catholic church in the County. Jews are few and far between, and I am not sure that there are more than two negroes.

The above point leads directly to another fact about the Germans of Snyder County. There is a cultural and social, as well as a religious unity about the County. When away from home, Snyder Countians will, with nostalgia, form Snyder County clubs and hold suppers together. There is such a club in Philadelphia, and the example of Vero Beach, Florida, is well known. It seems that once one is a Snyder Countian, he is always a Snyder Countian, no matter how far or how long he may roam. The distant circulation of the County papers is evidence of this fact; and the interest of the people in the doings of their friends who are on visits or who have moved away is another proof. One is not so much a Selinsgrover or a Middleburger as much as he is a Snyder Countian. The Selinsgrove Rotary club is more than a town club because it has members from as far as ten to fifteen miles away. It has been remarked many times that our people are county-conscious rather than town-conscious, although they are town-conscious also. This we-sense in the County arises partly from the fact that both town and County areas are German and Protestant, and partly from the economic interdependence of the towns and the rural areas.

Closely akin to this we-group feeling is the friendliness of the people of the County. They are easy to meet and are kind to strangers. The artist who painted the rural scene on the post office wall told me that the thing which impresed him most about the people in this area was their gentleness. He was of course referring to the fact that everybody knew everybody else and that the hurry-up stuff and hard-boiled individualism of the city-dweller were lacking. I would classify the Pennsylvania German's love of food in the same way. It is a friendly gesture when he asks you to eat at his table. And what meals, with their seven sweets and seven sours! Hospitality in Snyder County is so overwhelming that, unless one stuffs himself so much that he is no good for days, his host feels hurt. Said the **Selinsgrove Times:** "Though the Great Book says man cannot live by bread alone, he would fare rather well at Snyder County church suppers" (Feb. 20, 1941). Perhaps rationing may be a good thing for guests if not for hosts. Every organization knows that the best way to get good attendance is to have something for the members to eat. Since this historical society began to serve refreshments, its membership has quadrupled.

(To be concluded)

MEI GAUL—DER "BILL"

Wie ich waar yung un yuscht so en Fill,
Kummt der Meeschder in mei Schtall un saagt "Hei, Bill!"
Freindlich hot er mich g'schtriche hie un do.
Ich bin wennich rumg'hupst un er greischt "whoa!"

Ich waar voll Lewe un arrick schee,
Mit me g'scheide Kopp un en Set gude Bee;
Hettscht mich sehne schpringe, waer's dir net verleed;
Ich hab alles biete kenne uff weid un breed.

Der Meeschder hot mich g'schtriggelt mit grosse Acht,
Hot mich yeder Daag in Schtolsheit bedracht:
Saagt er, "Bill, duh net des, duh sell, nau follick;
Geb gute Acht uff dich nau un grick yo net die Kolick."

Er hot mich als eig'schpannt, sei Buggy waar fei;
Der Meeschder waar ready, dann hockt er sich nei;
Denno sin mir abg'schtart far niwwer ins Schtedtel;
Mir waare so eibildich un aa in fei Fettel.

Alle Sunndaag iss em Meeschder sei Maedel als mit,
Dann bin ich abaddich recht hoch fancy g'schritt;
Mit meim Kopp in de Heeh un mei Schwans yuscht graad so;
Mei Maahne waare g'flochte—saag, ich waar en Show!

Denno heiert der Meeschder—waar ich awwer bees!
Sei Fraa hot sei Geld g'schpent far eenich ald G'frees.
Sie saagt ihm, "nau muss do en Auto Car bei:
Es gebt nimme meh vun dem Gaul-Kutscheref."

Nau schteh ich im Schtall, ich saag, 's iss en Schand;
Mei Haerz iss verbroche, ich guck an die Wand.
Ich denk, was ich waar un was ich nau bin,
Un manniche Gedanke kumme mir in mei Sinn.

Awwer heit hawwich B'such g'hatte, es hot eener g'saat,
Sie hette ken Rubber far en Auto Car Raad.
Weil sie breichde nau alles im Greig as sie mache,
Un weil ich sell g'heert hab, kann ich widder lache.

Nau bin ich gut genung, mei Leit rumhaer faahre;
Ich weess der Weg heem, sie warre net verlore.
Ich ess wennich Hoi, awwer nemm doch ken Gas;
Wer weess? Verleicht geh ich noch Havre de Grace!

So dutt mer sei Freind oftmols hinnich die Dier,
Awwer mer laernt aa en Lessend, des saag ich dir!
Hald aa zu de gude Sache in unsere Welt:
Sie sin viele meh waert, as en Sackvoll Geld.

—MABEL G. SAYER.

In the annals of our dialect literature female writers are notably few. We have published from time to time the poetry of Rachel Baer (1867) of York County and of Louise A. Weitzel (1862-1934) of Lancaster County. We are grateful for the opportunity of offering our readers the verses of Miss Mabel G. Sayer, Secretary in the Judges' Chambers of Berks County. Critics have at times pointed out that the main theme of Pennsylvania German poetry is a plaintive nostalgia for the "good old times." There is some truth in this, but Louise A. Weitzel, Sally Hulsbuck, John Birmelin and others, among them Miss Sayer, have not hesitated to treat timely and pertinent subject matter in their verses.—ED.

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(Conclusion)

The social-cultural unity has its drawbacks, which, luckily, are passing out of the picture. In the past it led to provincialism and isolation. Even yet a newcomer can sense a kind of provincialism at once. He soon learns that he had better not speak disparagingly of anybody because so many of the people are related. The strength of the family reunions is a remarkable aspect of the social integration of the County. If one runs through the Selinsgrove telephone directory, he learns how some names pile up as to number of telephones; many other families of the same name have no phones. He finds such figures as the following: 5 Auckers, 6 Boligs, 6 Burnses, 6 Boyers, 16 Fishers, 6 Gemberlings, 5 Groces, 8 Hertolds, 5 Hoovers, 7 Hummels, 7 Kellers, 5 Kratzers, 8 Millers, 11 Moyers, 8 Shaffers, 9 Smiths, and 6 Walters. In New York City the lead would not be taken by the Fishers but probably by the Cohens. It is evident that in the past there have been large families and that a few family names are the commonest. But a little thought will show that in the past there has been a great deal of inter-marying between a few families. This fact has produced many inter- and intra-family fights, as even a newcomer can son learn. Names indicate past inter-marying. Marion Schnure Schoch and Agnes Selin Schoch, for instance. For the sociologist, this long perpetuation of the in-group in the County would make an interesting study.

Still other reasons for the cultural and social homogeneity of the population are the Pennsylvania German dialect; the predominantly agricultural economy of the County, and, comparatively speaking, the lack of transportation facilities. The importance of the last can be envisioned had Selinsgrove been on the main line of the PRR. Removal of passenger service from the S & L has tended to increase this homogeneity, or if you wish, this provincialism. Nevertheless it is breaking up fast. Snyder County within recent years has become a part of the world. Fine roads have done much in this respect. Opportunities to work in factories elsewhere have done more. The First World War took families, whose ancestors had lived here for several generations, to other localities. The Pennsylvania Dutch dialect is dying out; proof of this is the fact that it was felt necesary to organize the annual Dutch dinner. Fifty years ago it would not have been necesary to take such measures to revive interest in the language. In the abolition of this County particularism, Susquehanna University has always been a chief factor. From the very beginning, it brought students from the outside and from other states. Many of these students married town girls; and many of the town boys married college girls. If they settled here, that fact brought in new blood. If they went elsewhere to live, the result was the same—the breaking down of the old social homogeneity and provincialism. Faculty people came to live here—many of them from distant states. President Smith is from Virginia and Buffalo. Fewer inter-marriages between County families took place because the cities and factories acted as magnets to draw boys elsewhere. Instead of so many marriages between the Ulrichs, Boyers, Schochs, Schnures, Wagensellers, etc., one notes marriages between the Russes and the Bickerstaffs—outlandish people from outlandish places—people who will not vote Republican, and who try to break down the old traditions about Governor Snyder's term of office.

I do not mean to say that in the past Snyder County boys never married girls from the outside, or that Snyder County girls always married into local or nearby families. What I do seek to point out is that exogamy has become more the rule than the exception. A few random examples will show this. Take our esteemed President, Dr. George Fisher. He tells me that his family usually married locally for four generations. He broke the chain by marrying a girl from Lehigh County. His two daughters and one of his sons married non-Snyder Countians. Another example will suffice. Sally Brungart married Fred Stevens of Minnesota, originally of Maine. There you have a real union of stalwart Republican Maine and stalwart Snyder County.

I suggest that ultimately this breaking down of the older feeling of localism will have an effect upon local government in the form of County consolidation. As long as most of the people are born, live, and die here, the much-needed reform of consolidating small counties into larger units to save money will not get anywhere. As more and more outsiders come in, without having their roots deep in the past of the County, local loyalties will mean less. I forbear saying any more on this score, for fear that we shall have a fight before I get through with my paper.

Thus the old provincialism, the older inter-family groups, and the old ways are being broken down. I believe all will agree that in the long run it is for the good. This present war will add to the trend. It should be stressed that the change is to be expected and that it could not be otherwise. The reason is that there is always a surplus of boys and girls in a rural community who cannot find economic opportunities. As cities and industries grow up elsewhere, the young drift away, because the rural area cannot hold them. How many people living in New York City were born there?

I do not wish to leave this phase of the subject without pointing out again that Susquehanna University has been a powerful factor in this dispersal of Snyder County youth to other places. Because the college is here, an abnormal number of local youths receive a higher education. That is one of the benefits of having a college in one's town. Selinsgrove should be the most educated town in the county. Its residents are not so high because the young people can live at home while studying. Once they have graduated, Selinsgrove and Snyder County cannot absorb them. The public schools of the town and of the County do not have jobs enough for all of our local youth who train to be teachers. In fact, the local schools should not use them, for inbreeding in education is as bad as in families. The result is that these graduates find employment somewhere else, many of them in other states. This is as it should be, but it militates against the old provincialism. I venture to say that Selinsgrove and Snyder County have provided, for this and other states, more teachers in proportion to population than most small towns and small counties in the country. Snyder County teachers and Snyder County people in all professions, who have been trained at the college, are found everywhere in the country. Some one ought to make a study (it would not be hard to do) of the widespread contribution everywhere in the Nation of Snyder County boys and girls who, having received their education here, could not find employment at home and went somewhere else. In my opinion it is a contribution that is enormous, but it is a contribution that is crushing out forever the old-time cultural and social isolation of the County. Here is a farm boy who gets an education and becomes a professor—but not in Snyder County; here is a local girl who meets her future husband on the campus, but they go elsewhere to live; here is a County boy who meets his future wife who comes from another state, but he goes to some other County or state to be a minister or a doctor or a teacher. There are so many examples that to prove the statement is needless. I shall mention only three: Claude Mitchell, a graduate of Susquehanna, who is principal at West Newton; Sam Bulick, who is superintendent at Greensburg; and Robert Boyer who is teaching at Muhlenberg.

I do not think the people of the County should be sorry about the ending of the older practice of inter-marriage between a few old families. Bringing in of new blood is highly desirable; great people come from mixtures, not from inbreeding. I know for a fact that in the place where I was born and reared in Westmoreland County, the old Scotch-Irish clans had inter-married so much that the lines were deteriorating and running out. They were saved by large numbers of Slavic immigrants who poured in, much against the wishes of the older stocks; but the so-called Hunkies and Pollocks, in the second and third generations, intermarried with the Scotch-Irish. An improvement is visible on all sides.

I think I should not close without touching on one other aspect of the problem. Inasmuch as I have been teaching Pennsylvania German students for almost ten years—some of them your sons and daughters—you would no doubt like to know what impresion I have of them. I am not going to try to flatter you by saying they are brilliant, or wonderful, or remarkable. Nor am I going to say they are poor, because they are no poorer in ability than most others from non-German families. Instead, I am going to tell you the truth. I have found a few brilliant people, but not many. Most of them have been average in intelligence; most of them have been pretty fair workers; all have been cooperative; all have been conservative. I believe they have represented quite accurately the general characteristics of the people of the County. There is only one adverse criticism that I would make. They are not prone to open up and express themselves. I seldom know what they are thinking or whether they are thinking at all. I have often longed in my classes for comment, or even objection by the students, in order to learn whether they are being stirred up or not. I have found most German students attentive but unwilling to commit themselves. I have closed my classes time and again, after having given what I thought were provocative ideas, but without getting a chirp either in assent or in objection. Some underkind critics have laid this fact to lack of imagination or to a plodding, stolid, make-up. I would rather steal Professor Gilbert's explanation and make it my own; namely, that the Pennsylvania German is innately modest, even to the point of having an inferiority complex, and does not put his best foot forward. In the long run, this quality is better than being radical and Bolshevik; but I submit that the German has sufficient good qualities to justify his putting himself forward now and then.

To say, however, that the Snyder County German does not express himself very much because he is innately modest, is in my judgment only part of the reason. I believe that, just as important, is the fact that he is practical-minded and therefore not primarily interested in ideas or theories, or things intellectual. For generations he has been dealing with the practical, work-a-day problems of farming, making a living with his hands, and confronting the problems raised by nature. In brief he is non-intellectual. Notice I do not say he is anti-intellectual. He is non-intellectual, that is, things of the mind simply do not interest him greatly. He is not given to working with ideas, or theories, and such; hence many people of Snyder County are not very much interested in education. When we get the young people in college, we are likely to find that they do not go for intellectualism, or theories, or analysis of ideas. I have often tried to get a few of our students to meet in a discussion group to talk about world and national problems, but after 10 years I have not succeeded. I remember that Vincent Frattali, recently killed in North Africa, asked me whether I would be willing to meet with a group to discuss various problems of general interest. I said I would be delighted, provided he got as many as five to make it worthwhile. After some effort, he reported back that he could not get five, and that our students said they were not interested, or prefered to go to the movies. I think also that this non-intellectualism explains the almost impossible problem of getting either students or townspeople to come out to the college to attend lectures.

In conclusion, I wish to say that as I see the people of Snyder County they are largely agricultural, Protestant, white, conservative, patriotic, practical-minded, and still somewhat provincial. I suggest that most or all of these labels are rather rapidly becoming out of date because of education, transportation, and the present war. It is hardly necesary to say that the people of the County will remain patriotic, whether or not they become less agricultural, less Protestant, less conservative, and less provincial. In case it is not already clear from what I have said, I wish to make certainty doubly certain by saying that I consider the Germans of Snyder County a fine people, whose faults are rapidly being diluted under the stress of the modern world. Many times in my classes I have had occasion to pay tribute to the sterling, if unprogressive, attributes of the Pennsylvania German. Usually some non-German student has asked how I account for the fact that the Pennsylvania Germans are such desirable people, whereas the Germans back in Germany are Nazi, militaristic, and undemocratic. My answer always is that the best of the Germans left Germany to come to America, and the proof of their worth is the fact that they came.

ER ISS EN BRAAFER SOLDAAT WIE SEI DAADI

Die Welt, wu mir heit drin wuhne,
iss en wieschter, schrecklicher Blatz,
Mit Feier un Funke un Draene
un Blut, mit me kalte Haerz;
Awwer deel vun uns sin doch glicklich;
verleicht hen sie wie ich un du
Far unser Druwwel zu dreeschte,
die Lieb vum me gleene Buh—
Er iss en braafer Soldaat
wie sei Daadi!

Wie sei Daadi uns verlosse hot,
in den grosse Grieg zu geh,
Waare die drei vun uns in Draene,
unser Haerzer g'fiehlt wie Schtee;
Dann saagt sei Daadi zu unserm Bu:
Geb gut Acht uff dei Mammi, Mann!
Ich loss sie in deine Hend, weil ich
net bei eich bleiwe kann—
Sei en braafer Soldaat
wie dei Daadi!

Er iss en gleener Grollkopp
mit me scheene, freindliche G'sicht;
Awwer uff seine yunge Schuldere
draagt er en schwer Gewicht;
Holt mir Hols, schpringt noch'm Schtor,
muss ebbes Schweres draage—
Dutt er sei gleene Hend in meine,
du kannscht ihn heere saage:
Bin ich en braafer Soldaat
wie mei Daadi?

Die Soldaate in seim Schpeisach
schtehne graad un schtrack in Roihe;
Mit laudi Schproch kommandiert er sie,
kann sich gut entschoiye;
Un allemol gewinnt sei Seit,
sie gewwe sich gaar net nunner;
Sei Aage glitzere, er iss so schtols
un saagt: "Nau Mammi, ich wunner,
Sin sie so braafe Soldaate
wie mei Daadi?"

Un wann er sich oweds hiegnied
un bed far sei Daadi dart draus,
Un sei Grollkopp fallt als nunner
uffs Bett, muss ich alsemol naus,
As er yo sei Mammi net sehne kann;
wie ich fiehl, darf er net wisse;
Er muss ruhe un schlofe un draame
uff seim gleene Koppekisse:
Was en braafer Soldaat
iss sei Daadi!

Un ich un der Bu awaarte die Zeit—
o sell gebt en freehlicher Daag!—
Wann die Kanone widder ruhich sin,
wann mer in Friede lewe maag;
Wann unser Daadi dennoh zerick kummt—
un deiner, sell hoff ich aa—
Dann kenne mir all saage,
yeder Bu un stolsi Fraa:
"Er waar en braafer Soldaat
wie sei Daadi."

—MABEL G. SAYER.

There Was An Old Woman

En aldi Grossmammi die wuhnt imme Schuh,
Sie hot so viel Kinner un Druwwel dezu;
Sie gebt ne zu esse, doch yo net zu fett,
Sie gaerbt sie gedichtich un yaagt sie ins Bett.

Cobbler, Cobbler, Mend My Shoe

Schuhmacher, Schuhmacher, flick mer die Schuh,
Saag mer aa graad, wie g'schwind hoscht's geduh;
Sin sie net faerdich bis halwer zwelf,
Dann mach mer sie yuscht bis halwer elf!

Schuhmacher, Schuhmacher, flick mer die Schuh,
Sin newe verrisse, dart naeh mer sie zu;
Do breiche sie 'n Rieschder, dart breiche sie'n Fleck,
Un hoschte sie faerdich, dann hol ich sie weck.

Aus'm JOHN BIRMELIN seim MAMMI GANS BUCH